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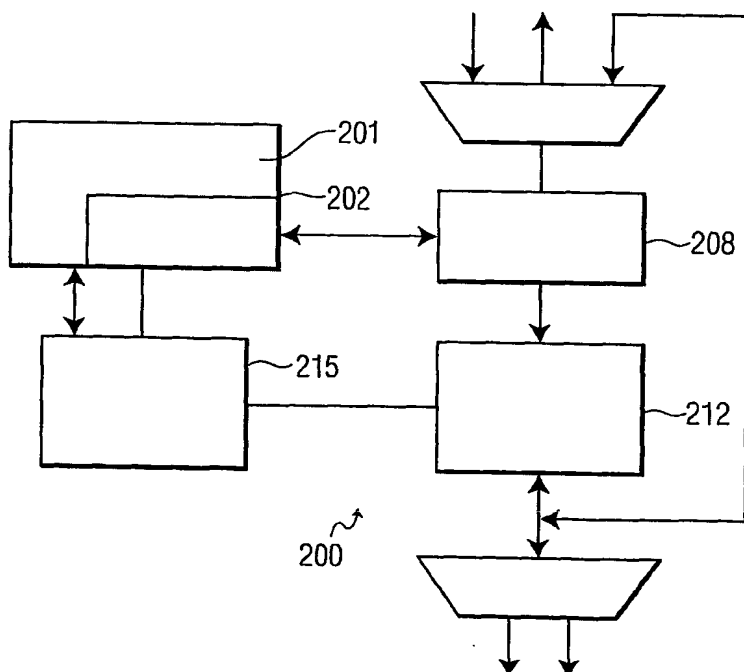
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A LOW MEMORY HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KEY EXPANSION FUNCTION



(57) Abstract: An apparatus, method and computer program for reducing memory space required during the key expansion function in algorithms such as AES. A block round unit (212) for encrypting/decrypting the predetermined number of byte units into ciphered text/plain text. A key expansion module (215) performs key expansion on both normal (encryption) and inverse (decryption) functions to obtain expanded key values. The number of memory spaces in the memory (202) required for storage of the expanded key values is no greater than half the number of expanded key values and typically requires 7 memory spaces for 14 keys without an increase in access time relative to a case when the number of key values and memory spaces are equal. The key expansion is performed in synchronization with Round Key processing so that for each key expansion a Round Key is being processed in parallel with a respective key expansion function.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE,

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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

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- with international search report
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